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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

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6 December 1966

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The ruling Directorate agreed at a recent meeting to reject Constituent Assembly proposals which would limit the Directorate's power to amend the constitution.

The assembly has not yet been officially informed of the decision, although several deputies are reportedly aware of it.

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The assemblymen had been optimistic that the Directorate would at least agree to a compromise on the less controversial of the seven articles they want amended in their basic charter. It is still possible that the Directorate's formal reply to the assembly will be softened by minor concessions.

If the Directorate remains inflexible, however, it could provoke a new round of assembly criticism directed at the essentially military oligarchy.

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: MACV has accepted as "probable" the organization of the 10th North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Division in the Kontum/Pleiku/Cambodia border area. The 5,700-man division has three subordinate units: the 88th, 95th "B" and 101st "C" Regiments. The 101st "C" was accepted only last week in MACV's order of battle. First reports on the existence of this division were obtained in August 1966.

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Organization of the 10th NVA Division is one more indication of the fleshing out of the NVA and Viet Cong main force structure into conventional military formations. There are now nine division-level Communist units in South Vietnam: one probable, one possible, and five confirmed North Vietnamese divisions and two confirmed Viet Cong divisions. Most of these units, despite their designations as either NVA or VC, have mixtures of troops from both North and South Vietnam. [redacted]

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Jordan: A demonstration occurred again yesterday in Palestinian west Jordan following several days of relative calm.

The new outbreak was in Nablus, a focal point of antagonism toward King Husayn since Israel's 13 November raid. The demonstration protested the King's decision to ban a scheduled meeting of Palestinian leaders in Jerusalem yesterday. Husayn originally had sanctioned the meeting with the hope that it would provide an orderly forum for discussion of grievances.

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Nablus was the first of several Palestinian towns to petition the King to permit foreign Arab troops, including those of the Cairo-based Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), to be stationed in west Jordan. This proposal was to have been discussed at the Jerusalem meeting and undoubtedly will be debated heatedly at the Arab Defense Council meeting tomorrow in Cairo. The disorder in Nablus may have been instigated by the PLO as a form of last-minute pressure before the defense council meets.

After first requesting a postponement pending the return of his army chief of staff from Washington, Husayn has now agreed to send to Cairo a Jordanian delegation led by Prime Minister Tal. Tal has been a personal target of much of the domestic and foreign Arab antagonism directed against the Amman government.

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